

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 27, 2008**

Members Present: Ennis, Lardizzzone, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Timberman, Wasson

Members Excused: Smith

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Al Carter and Chris Portante (SOS), Ron Sarg (MOAA), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Ennis opened the meeting by reporting that there has been a lot of activity with the Veterans Home Advisory Committee.

Mr. Portante announced the upcoming Veteran Authors Event on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14, 2008, 2:00- 4:00 pm, at the Delaware Veterans Home. If you know of any authors in the state of Delaware who are veterans, please let him know. They will also be having a flag ceremony. Mr. Portante provided flyers to be distributed to the veterans organizations.

Mr. McMullen reported that the AF Sergeants Association had a very successful convention.

Mr. Reid provided an update on the Veterans Home and distributed handouts.

**MOTION BY THOMPSON TO ACCEPT APRIL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY KITSON, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Newstadt announced that he will be providing a cemetery report at the Cemetery during the Memorial Day observation.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Mr. Timberman reported that Mr. Fred Cowell will be the guest speaker and Mr. Wayne Carter will be the MC for the Memorial Day program at the Delaware Memorial Bridge on May 30, 2008.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Commissioner Carroll announced that the VA clinic in Georgetown will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 29, 2008, 10:00 am. The Dover VA clinic has a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for June 30, 2008, 10:30 am. The Delaware Military History Museum had an open house on May 14, 2008.

BY-LAWS

Commissioner Lank asked that if anyone has noticed anything in the By-Laws that needs to be changed, please let him know.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Commissioner Corsa asked if a 20-year retired non-Delaware resident National Guard member would be eligible for the Veterans Home the same as they are eligible to be buried at the Veterans Cemetery? There was discussion on this subject and Mr. Davila indicated that they would need to submit legislation to make that clause effective for the Veterans Home.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Evans (American Legion) – They are installing their new officers and their State Convention is scheduled for July 11-13, 2008.

Newstadt (JWV) – On May 2, 2008, he attended the Glasgow High School JROTC event. On May 18, 2008, he attended the Newark Memorial Day Service on the Green. On May 25, 2008, the JWV held their annual installation luncheon and he is again the Senior Vice Commander. In August, they will have their annual picnic. JWV is trying to enhance their membership, so please let him know if you know any Jewish War Veterans who are not members.

Kitson (VFW) – The VFW State Convention is scheduled for June 6-8, 2008, at the Sheraton in Dover. The VFW will be hosting the Flag Day Ceremony at the Southern Cemetery on June 14, 2008, the guest speaker will be Mark Newman, 4th District Council member. The spring Council Meeting will be on June 15, 2008, in PA.

Harden (WAVES) – They are going to celebrate their 25th Anniversary next month. On May 14, 2008, she was asked by American Legion Post 21 to present a flag at the Brandywine High School for their Memorial Day Service.

Wasson (DELVETS) – On Saturday, May 24, 2008, DELVETS held their annual Memorial Day Service; which was followed by a picnic. On May 26, 2008, members of DELVETS went to the cemeteries and honored departed members.

Lardizzone (DAV) – He attended the New Jersey DAV Convention. DAV sponsored the Memorial Day Ceremony in Washington, DC on May 25, 2008. He will attend the New York State Convention on June 22-25, 2008. The Delaware State Convention will be held on June 27-28, 2008, at the Sheraton in Dover. He attended Dover's Memorial Day Ceremony, sponsored by DELVETS and American Legion on May 26, 2008.

Ennis (KWVA) – On May 4, 2008, he was invited to speak at the First Baptist Church in New Castle County.

Thompson (MCL) – The MCL Department Convention will be held on June 28, 2008, which will include election of new officers.

Carroll (MOPH) – He attended Memorial Day Ceremonies at Mt. Pleasant, Brandywine and Concord High. At each of the ceremonies, a burial flag was presented by a family to each school. The MOPH

Department Convention was held on May 24, 2008, and he thanked DAV for allowing them to use their facility. The National Convention will be held in Las Vegas, NV, in August. The JROTC leadership awards from MOPH have all been completed. Plaques were presented to the families of those Delaware residents killed in Iraq.

Lank (MOWW) – He submitted an updated listing of MOWW officers to the Commission office. He attended a JROTC Ceremony at Cape Henlopen where they honored a graduate of the program who was killed in Iraq. He commended the Delaware Veterans Home on the Memorial Day BBQ.

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Announced that they also participated in the JROTC program.

Timberman (CPVA) – The Memorial Day Ceremony scheduled for May 30, 2008, at the Delaware Memorial Bridge is all set. One problem is that their Chapter is holding their annual trap shoot that weekend, so he doubts many of their members will be attending the ceremony. Their annual membership and Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, June 7, 2008, at which time they will elect new officers.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Corsa stated that the Health & Human Services Committee spent three hours reviewing waiver applications for admission into the Veterans Home. Mr. Reid provided an explanation for each of the individuals submitted for review. There was discussion about the Veterans Home application process and health services that are being offered.

MOTION BY LANK TO SUBMIT THE PATIENT WAIVER LISTING TO THE VETERANS HOME ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS, SECONDED BY LARDIZZONE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY KITSON TO REMOVE THE TIME RESTRICTION OF 18 MONTHS FOR SPOUSAL APPROVAL, SECONDED BY CARROLL, MOTION CARRIED.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

There were concerns about military members saluting the American flag out of uniform. It was determined that a law was recently passed. Discussion followed.

There was discussion about the progress of the WWII History Project.

Commissioner Carroll reported that the Delaware Veterans Home Advisory Committee meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm and then followed by the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home meeting at 2:00 pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: JUNE 17, 2008 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED